

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 917 without my signature.

I support this bill's intent to provide consumers with additional information regarding what hospitals charge for common medical procedures than what was required by Assembly Bill 1627 (Chapter 582, Statutes of 2003). However, this bill is unnecessary. Since Senate Bill 917 was introduced the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) has posted the 25 most common Diagnosis Related Groups for California's hospitals on its website.

In addition, I have signed Assembly Bill 1045, which expands OSHPD's current practice to include outpatient procedures and makes additional information available to consumers beyond what would be required under Senate Bill 917. Assembly Bill 1045 will allow consumers access to inpatient and outpatient charge information to make more informed decisions when seeking hospital care.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger